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(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(54) Title: METHOD OF AND SOFTWARE FOR MONITORING DIGITAL INFORMATION
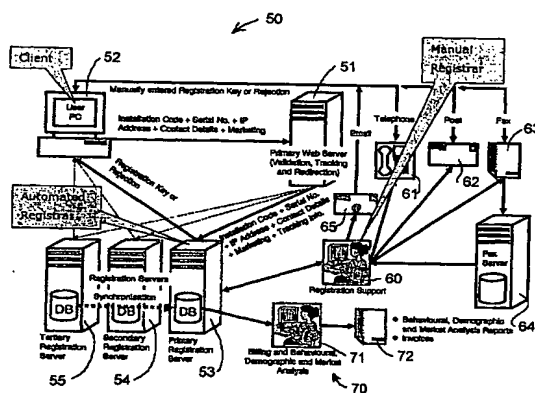
(57) Abstract: A method of monitoring digital information including: creating a secure wrapper around the digital information using a method selected from a first wrapper method including directly embedding a first executable protection software portion in the digital information; or a second wrapper method including linking a second executable protection software portion to the digital information by way of an application program interface (API); or a third wrapper method including modifying the digital information and embedding a third executable protection software portion in the modified digital information; each of the first, second and third executable protection software portion including a specific performance portion operable by a user to perform one or more specific performance tasks, the or at least one of the specific performance tasks including a hardware environment check; selecting one of the first second or third wrapper methods according to the software and development platform of the digital information, the accessibility of the source code of the digital information, and/or the level of monitoring required; executing selected wrapper method by way of the first, second or third executable protection software portions including the steps of intercepting access to the digital information; checking that at least one of the specific performance tasks has been performed, including the hardware environment check has been performed; and validating whether or not the hardware environment corresponds to the hardware environment which has been previously checked.

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